



The Lincoln Kinsman

Number 26

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

August, 1940

Relatives of Lincoln's Wife

HISTORIC SKETCHES OF THE TODD FAMILY AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

The growing interest in the life of Mary Todd Lincoln makes any authentic information about her or her family worthy of attention. In 1894 Georgie Hortense Edwards, a granddaughter of Elizabeth Todd Edwards, sister of Mary Todd Lincoln, published a brochure on the history of the Edwards and Todd families. The edition was limited and has now become difficult to obtain.

While the story of the Edwards family is of general interest inasmuch as Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd were married in the home of Ninian Edwards, and here also the widow of Abraham Lincoln made her home after the death of her son Thomas, remaining there until her own decease, yet much of the data in these biographical sketches are not of interest to the students of Lincoln.

The section of the brochure dealing with the Todd family contributes some facts about these people which should be made available to all Lincoln students. While the space utilized in the *Lincoln Kinsman* is not sufficient to reproduce the entire story of both the Edwards and Todd families, permission has been received from Mrs. Mary Edwards Brown, a sister of the late Georgie Edwards, to reprint the Todd family section of the pamphlet.

With the exception of a few brief passages in which the author gave her own relationship to the individuals mentioned in the text, and the omission of one sketch not material to the discussion, the manuscript appears verbatim. The disconnected sketches have been rearranged but the subject matter is virtually as written when first published in 1894.

Historic Sketches
of
THE EDWARDS AND TODD
Families
and
Their Descendants
1523-1895

By Georgie Hortense Edwards
Springfield, Ill.:
H. W. Rokker, Printer and Binder,
1894

PREFACE

Some months ago an invitation was extended to the writer to become a member of The Daughters of the American Revolution. To do this it became necessary to establish the fact that the applicant for membership is the descendant, directly or collaterally, from one who had served his country during the war of the American Revolution in the civil or military departments of the government.

It was not the intention, when this work was commenced, to look beyond the period of the Revolutionary War in searching out the antecedents of the writer's family, but, as the reading and research of such records as were found in the public libraries progressed, it was determined to enlarge the scope of the inquiry, and, to that end, other works and books of reference were purchased.

Much of the information obtainable has not been included here, though little has escaped notice, it being the aim simply to mention the officers of the higher grades, or those

whose claims to distinction are historically assured.

The ancestry of the writer has been traced from the year 1523 down to the present time. Such information as has been given of the paternal and maternal ancestors of the writer; of the various public places filled by them, and of the services rendered by them to their country in Revolutionary times, has, necessarily, been briefly sketched—want of time and other circumstances being accountable therefor.

It was found, in the brief researches made, that of the ancestors of the writer who assisted in establishing American Independence during the War of the Revolution, the following are to be numbered: Eight great grandfathers, two great grandmothers, and sixteen great grand uncles; the great grandfathers and great grand uncles having held commissions in the American army, ranking from major generals down to captains. The references and proofs of the foregoing are on file with the Recording Secretary of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the city of Washington, dated October 4, 1894, and numbered 4,604.

It was found, also, in the investigations made by the writer, that six Presidents of the United States, three Secretaries of War, one Secretary of the Treasury, two Attorneys General, five United States Ministers, five United States Senators, and seven Governors were descendants of or connected by marriage with the writer's ancestors.

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 1894.

G. H. E.

**THE TODD ANCESTORS OF
MARY TODD LINCOLN****Robert Todd**

(great great grandfather)

Robert Todd was born in Ireland, in 1697; died in Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, in 1775, and was buried in the churchyard of the Providence Presbyterian Church. His first wife, whose name is supposed to have been Smith, died and was buried in Ireland. In Ireland he married, for a second wife, Isabella, sister of General William Bodley. The mother of Isabella and General Wm. Bodley was a Parker, a name which belongs to many families of note in Pennsylvania. By his first wife he had two sons, John and David. By the second wife he had five sons and four daughters, William, Andrew, Robert, Samuel, Levi, Elizabeth, Mary, Rebecca and Sarah. David Todd, the second son of Robert Todd, was born in Ireland, April 8th, 1723, and when a child, was brought by his father to Pennsylvania. His wife, whom he married in Pennsylvania, was Hannah Owen, of Welsh descent and a quakeress. They had four sons and two daughters, John, Robert, Levi, Owen, Elizabeth and Hannah.

General Levi Todd

(grandfather)

General Levi Todd, third son of David Todd, was born in Pennsylvania, in 1756; was educated in Virginia, studied law, became a surveyor, went early to Kentucky, and was one of the defenders of the fort at Harrodsburg; he afterwards assisted Logan to hold St. Asaphs; was major, colonel, brigadier and major general of the Kentucky forces until his death, in 1807. He married Jane Briggs and had eleven children,

Hannah, Elizabeth, John, Nancy, David, Ann Maria, Robert S., Jane, Margaret, Roger North and Samuel.

Jane Briggs Todd

(grandmother)

General Levi Todd married Jane Briggs, in the fort of St. Asaphs, in Lincoln County, Kentucky, February 25, 1779. St. Asaphs was then a fortified station defended by strong arms and brave hearts. We may be sure there were no engraved cards tied with silken ribbons to bid the guest to the wedding feast, no tables decked with silver plate emblazoned with coats of arms, no guest arrayed in immodest gown bought from some mantua-maker in Paris. There was no printing press, much less an engraver, within hundreds of miles. Those shrewd men and heroic women, to whom our people are indebted for most that is either good or powerful in them, were too seriously grappling with the stern realities of life to think or dream of the lying vanities paraded in most American armorial bearings. And it is the boast of the sensible descendants of fair Jane Briggs, that with her own brisk hands she spun and wove her wedding dress from the fiber of the wild cotton weed. The men who witnessed the exchange of vows knew that at any moment they might be ordered to march; the women, that at break of day they might bid their loved ones a last farewell. No shoddy nor pinchback was there; nor any shabby imitation of the coarse profusion of an intrinsically vulgar English Squirearchy.

General Robert Todd

(brother of grandfather Levi)

General Robert Todd, second son of David Todd, was wounded in the

The Lincoln Kinsman

Published Monthly by
LINCOLNIANA PUBLISHERS
 Box 1110—Fort Wayne, Ind.

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BUSINESS MANAGER
MAURICE A. COOK

Annual Subscription.....\$2.00
 Single Copies25

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defense of McClellan's Fort, now Georgetown, in 1776; continued to be an active and brave soldier all through the troubles with the Indians, and was often intrusted with important commands.

Col. John Todd

(brother of grandfather Levi)

Col. John Todd was an aide to General Andrew Lewis in the battle of Point Pleasant. He succeeded General George Rogers Clarke in command at Kaskaskia, in 1778, and was several years civil governor and colonel of the county of Illinois. He was commandant of the Kentucky forces at the battle of Blue Licks, August 18, 1782, and was killed in this battle.

Robert S. Todd

(father)

Robert S. Todd, seventh child of

General Levi Todd, was born near Lexington, Ky., February 25, 1791, and died July 15, 1849. When about 30 years old he was elected clerk of the Kentucky House of Representatives, and, by successive elections, held the position for twenty years; he was then three times elected representative from Fayette County; in 1845 was elected to the State Senate, and was a candidate for re-election when he died. He was twice married; first to his near relative, Eliza Ann Parker, a granddaughter of General Andrew Porter. They had six children, Elizabeth, Levi, George, Frances, Mary and Ann. Mary was the wife of President Lincoln, and Elizabeth married Ninian W. Edwards, February 16th, 1832.

THE PORTER ANCESTORS OF
MARY TODD LINCOLN

Robert Porter

(great great grandfather)

Robert Porter emigrated to America from Ireland in the year 1720. He came from what is known as the Isle of Bert, which is distant about nine miles from the city of Londonderry. The ruins of the dwelling which his father occupied may yet be seen. The original farm has been divided into several parts, and continues to be occupied and cultivated by those of the same family. It is a bold and picturesque country, and a fit place for the rearing of men of energy and decisions. He landed at Londonderry, New Hampshire, and soon afterwards purchased and settled on a farm in what is now Worcester township, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania, about four miles distant from Norristown. He occupied this farm until the day of his death, which took place on the 14th of

July, 1770, in the seventy-second year of his age. The records of the church show that in 1741 he was an elder in the Norristown Presbyterian church. He reared a large family—nine sons and five daughters. Some of his sons moved westward and some southward. The most successful and prominent of his sons was General Andrew Porter, born on his father's farm on the 24th of September, 1743.

General Andrew Porter
(great grandfather)

General Andrew Porter was twice married; first to Elizabeth McDowell on the 10th of March, 1767, a daughter of General McDowell, of the Revolution, and secondly to Elizabeth, daughter of William Parker and Elizabeth Todd, on the 20th of May, 1777. The brother of his second wife was the gallant Major Parker of the Revolution. Elizabeth Porter, the oldest daughter by his first wife, married Robert Parker, son of James Parker and Mary Todd, and first cousin of General Porter's second wife. She was the grandmother of the wife of President Lincoln and of Elizabeth Todd Edwards. This Robert Parker was also a major in the Revolution. This marriage took place in 1790, and the newly wedded pair made their bridal trip from Pennsylvania to Lexington, Kentucky, on horseback. They had four sons and two daughters. Eliza Parker married Robert S. Todd and was the mother of Mary Todd Lincoln and Elizabeth Todd Edwards.

General Andrew Porter entered the service on the 19th day of June, 1776. He was successively promoted to the ranks of major, lieutenant colonel,

colonel commandant and brigadier and major general of the Pennsylvania forces. In the war of 1812 he was appointed by President Madison brigadier general in the regular army and Secretary of War, but declined both positions on the ground that a younger man might serve the country more efficiently.

Elizabeth Parker Porter
(General Porter's second wife)

Some service was rendered by Elizabeth Parker Porter toward the establishment of American Independence during the war of the Revolution.

This lady was the wife of General Andrew Porter and the sister of Lieutenant, afterwards captain and then major, Parker. They were married on the 20th of May, 1777. She was evidently a woman of unusual prudence in the conduct of her household affairs. During her husband's long absences she managed his business, superintended the farm and instructed her children with beautiful devotion and fidelity. Her husband was heard to say that, during the war, he never wore a garment which did not display the evidence of her skill in needlework. General Knox said to him: "Porter, how does it happen that you look so genteel when the rest of us are in rags, and you are receiving no better pay than we?" "You must ask my wife," he replied; "I thought this coat had seen its best days, but recently she took it home, took it apart, turned the inside of the cloth outward, and now you see it is almost as good as new."

This lady had a real adventure to relate. While the army was at Valley Forge she was accustomed to visit

her husband, carrying with her some small delicacies for his use, or garments made with her own hands, and these visits were generally made on horseback. One evening, on approaching the camp, she met a gentleman in undress uniform, of whose rank she was ignorant. He adjusted for her some part of the trappings of the horse and paid a compliment to the animal which, she informed him, was of their own raising. On learning her name he walked slowly beside her horse to the camp, asking her on the way a variety of questions respecting the inhabitants, and especially their feelings towards the army and the war. On reaching the encampment he said: "I think I see your husband," and bowing politely, turned away. The face of the latter wore an unusually pleasant smile. "Well, my good lady," said he, "you come into camp highly escorted." "By whom," she asked. "By the Commander-in-Chief," was the reply. "Not by Washington!" It was even so.

UNCLES AND AUNTS OF MARY TODD LINCOLN Hannah Todd Stuart

Hannah, the oldest daughter of General Levi Todd, was born in the fort at Harrodsburg in the year 1780. Contemporary description represents her to have been of unusual beauty of face and person in her youth, and, in maturer years, as a woman of uncommon force of character. In the early bloom of womanhood, she became the wife of Rev. Robert Stuart, a native of Virginia. She died in 1832. They had seven children. John Todd Stuart, son of Hannah Todd Stuart, was born near Lexington, Ky., November 10, 1807. He

was married October 25, 1837, to Mary Virginia, daughter of General Francis Nash. He was a grand-nephew of the General Francis Nash who was killed in the battle of Germantown during the Revolutionary War. They had six children—Betty, John T., Frank, Robert L., Virginia, and Hannah. His widow resides in this city.

John Todd Stuart graduated at Centre College, Danville, Ky., in 1826, studied law with Judge Breck in Richmond, Ky., and came to Springfield, Ill., October 25, 1828. He at once engaged in the practice of his profession, and when the Indian trouble came on that culminated in the Black Hawk War, Mr. Stuart became the Major of the battalion in which Abraham Lincoln commanded a company. In 1832 he was elected to the Legislature, and re-elected in 1834. He had so grown in the confidence and attachment of the people that there was a pressing demand for his services, although he had only attained the age of 25 years. As a lawyer, it is sufficient of John T. Stuart that he held his own with such men as Davis, Lincoln, Douglas, Logan, Harlin, Baker, and other men of like caliber. In 1838 he was elected a member of Congress, and again in 1840 from the Springfield district. In 1843 he formed a partnership with Benjamin S. Edwards, under the firm name of Stuart & Edwards, lawyers, and they continued together until the death of Mr. Stuart. In 1848 he was elected to the State Senate. He was out of politics after that until 1862, when he was elected to Congress from this district.

Elizabeth Todd Carr

Elizabeth, second child of General Levi Todd, married Charles Carr of Fayette County, Kentucky, son of Walter Carr who was a member of the Kentucky Convention of 1799 and was several times in the Legislature. They had twelve children. Their son, Charles Carr, a lawyer, was for years Judge of the Fayette County Court. His wife was a Miss Didlake. Their daughter, Mary Ellen Young, married Alfred M. Young, July 8, 1846. One of her daughters, Lizzie Todd Brent, is the wife of Charles S. Brent of Lexington, Ky. Another daughter, Susan, married John C. Lanphier, a prominent lawyer of Springfield, Ill.

Mary Ellen Young was born December 9, 1824, and died January 22, 1885. Alfred M. Young was born January 8, 1808, and died March 7, 1870.

Roger North Todd

Roger North Todd, tenth child of General Levi Todd, married Miss Ferguson. They had eight children. Their son, Robert L. Todd, married, first, Sallie Hall, a daughter of Rev. Nathan K. Hall, an eminent Presbyterian divine. The mother of Sallie Hall was a daughter of Colonel William Pope, one of the first settlers at the Falls of the Ohio, and an aunt of General John Pope. After the death of this wife, Mr. Todd married, secondly, Martha Edwards, daughter of Dr. Benjamin Edwards of St. Louis, whose wife was a daughter of Willis Green of Lincoln County, Kentucky.

Levi Todd

Levi Todd, son of General Levi Todd, married Louisa Searles, of Lexington, Ky. Their daughter, Mrs.

Louisa Todd Keyes, is the wife of Edward D. Keyes, a prominent banker of Springfield, Ill.

Dr. John Todd

Dr. John Todd, son of General Levi Todd, was born April 27, 1787, near Lexington, Ky. He was married July 1, 1813, to Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Rev. John Blair Smith, D. D. She was born April 18, 1793, in Philadelphia. Her mother was a daughter of General Nash, a leader in the American Revolution, from Virginia. Dr. Todd was appointed Surgeon General of the Kentucky troops in the War of 1812, and was at the battle and massacre of the River Raisin in Canada, where he was captured. In 1827 he was appointed by President John Quincy Adams, Register of the United States Land Office at Springfield, Ill. Dr. Todd and wife had six children. He died January 9, 1865, and she died March 11, 1865. Dr. Todd and wife celebrated their golden wedding July 1, 1863. One of their daughters, Elizabeth Todd, is the widow of the Rev. John H. Brown, and resides in this city. She was born in January, 1825. Another daughter of Dr. John Todd, Frances S., was the first wife of Thomas H. Shelby, a grandson of Governor Isaac Shelby of Kentucky, and John Todd Shelby of Lexington, Ky. is her son. She was born December 19, 1832, and died February 1, 1851.

**SISTERS OF MARY TODD
LINCOLN****Elizabeth Todd Edwards**

Ninian W. Edwards was the son of Ninian Edwards, the first and only territorial governor of Illinois, and was born April 15, 1809, near Frankfort, Ky. His father, at that

time, was chief justice of the court of appeals of Kentucky. He was married to Elizabeth P. Todd, in Lexington, Ky., February 16, 1832. She was the daughter of Robert S. Todd. . . . Ninian W. Edwards died Sept. 2, 1889. His wife died Feb. 22, 1888. She was a sister of Mrs. Abraham Lincoln. Mrs. Lincoln died at the residence of Mrs. Ninian W. Edwards, July 16, 1882, the same house in which she was married November 2, 1842.

Frances Todd Wallace

Frances Todd Wallace, a daughter of Robert S. Todd, and granddaughter of General Levi Todd, was born in 1817 in Lexington, Ky., was married to Dr. William S. Wallace, May, 1839. Dr. Wallace came to Springfield, Ill. in 1836, and at once engaged in the practice of his profession. He was born August 10, 1802, in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. In 1861 he was appointed by President Lincoln Paymaster in the United States army. After the suppression of the Rebellion he was placed on the retired list, and died May 23, 1867. His widow resides in Springfield. They had five children, William F., Frances, Edward D., Charles E., and Mary F.

Mary F. Wallace was married to Col. John P. Baker, November 15, 1865. Col. Baker was born July 24, 1838, at Kaskaskia, Ill. In March, 1861, he was appointed by President Lincoln Second Lieutenant in the First United States Dragons, placed on duty in Washington City, and was at the battle of Bull Run, July 21, 1861. He served on staff duty at the headquarters of the Sixth Army Corps, in the Army of the Potomac; also on staff duty as Inspector Gen-

eral at Savannah, Ga. in 1865. Lieutenant Baker was promoted, July 17, 1862, to Captain in the First United States Cavalry, April 9, 1864, brevet Major in the regular army for gallantry and meritorious service at Pleasant Hill, La.; also brevet Lieutenant Colonel for gallant and meritorious services during the war. He resigned his commission in July, 1868. In 1883 he was appointed Paymaster in the United States army.

Emilie Todd Helm

Emilie Todd, the fourth child of Robert S. Todd by his second wife, married General Ben Hardin Helm in 1856. He was the son of Governor John L. Helm of Kentucky. John L. Helm was eleven times elected to the House of Representatives of Kentucky, his terms of service extending from 1826 to 1843, and was five times chosen Speaker of that body. He was elected to the Senate 1844-48. He was Governor in 1850. In 1865, he was again elected to the State Senate and served until 1867. In the latter year he was again elected Governor of the State by a very large majority. General Ben Hardin Helm was born June 2, 1831. He was mortally wounded in the battle of Chickamauga, and died the same day, September 20, 1863. Emilie Todd Helm is living in Elizabethtown, Ky.

Ann Todd Smith

Ann Todd, the fourth daughter of Robert S. Todd by his first wife, married C. M. Smith, a prominent merchant of Springfield, Ill. They had four children. Edgar and Allen are living in this city and Clara and Minnie in Chicago. Ann Todd Smith died March 21, 1891. C. M. Smith died July 29, 1885.